

April 15, 2013

Dear Tax Reform Group:

I am writing to suggest and encourage you, as part of tax reform, to end the Production Tax Credits which are currently given to providers of inefficient renewable energy resources, such as wind.

Power providers are being forced to purchase the little power generated from these wind farms, but the cost is much higher per unit than that of traditional energy sources, like gas and coal. This increase, of course, is passed along to each household, and our budgets are already strapped. In addition, these wind farms are owned and managed, oftentimes, by Chinese or other foreign companies and provide a tiny fraction of the jobs which were provided by coal technology. Why are we giving PTC's to foreign companies which provide few jobs and do very little for our economy except raise our electric rates. At the same time, these PTC's are costing us coal jobs, despite the clean coal technology being pioneered at Ohio State's main campus. If you want to give tax credits to an endeavor, it should be beneficial to the country, and it should be efficient.

If one looks across the U.S. at places which are being targeted for wind farms, one finds very populated states like Ohio. And if one looks at an EPA wind map, one sees that such states rank very low in the steady, strong winds needed to make such investments efficient, yet due to PTC's and local PILOT programs, these developers are invading communities and neighborhoods, devaluing property, hindering CareFlight, and harming bat species with their wind farms. At a cost of \$3,000,000 per turbine and 100-150 turbines in a wind farm, that money would go a looooooong way in the field of clean coal technology – something that increases and maintains jobs instead of doing away with them.

If wind technology were such a great idea for all of our country, then why are farms being dismantled and more moratoria being put in place? If this is such a great idea, then why do the developers tell communities that they need tax credit after tax credit in order to make their projects viable? If it is such a great idea, shouldn't it be self-sustaining? If I open a business tomorrow, I am responsible for my own costs – whether it succeeds or fails. Given this, I will not take that step until I have done all I can to make sure it succeeds. But wind developers don't have to do this; they just come to the government with sad faces, no results, and a litany of sob stories, and because they hold out their collective hand and ask for money, you give it to them.

I say, "No more!" Let them prove efficiency and fund themselves like the rest of us have to do!

Respectfully,
Renée Wildermuth